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**BOGUS EXPERT IN COMPUTER FORENSICS SENTENCED TO
21-MONTH PRISON TERM FOR PERJURY**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today JAMES EARL EDMISTON, 36, of Long Beach, California, was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill in Fresno to a prison term of 21 months for his convictions of two counts of perjury. He will also be required to serve a term of supervised release of 36 months upon his release from custody.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by the Fresno Office of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Unit.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, EDMISTON had been retained by at least two Fresno criminal defense attorneys to provide computer forensic analysis in several child sexual exploitation prosecutions. As part of his work on those cases, EDMISTON prepared and executed declarations under penalty of perjury in which he claimed that he had been a computer consultant for twelve (12) years, that he had a master's degree in computer engineering from the California Institute of Technology, and that he had been qualified as an expert witness in computers and their online usage by numerous state and federal courts throughout California. An investigation revealed that EDMISTON did not, in fact, have degrees from the California Institute of Technology, the University of California at Los Angeles, or the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, as he alleged. Court documents show that EDMISTON also concealed his prior criminal record that includes a prison term that he served in the mid-1990s as a result of forgery convictions in the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County.

Despite a lack of credentials to do so, EDMISTON did, in fact, testify under oath as an "expert" in cases in courts in California. In sentencing EDMISTON to prison, Judge O'Neill specifically commented that the defendant's crimes went to the very heart of the judicial system which is designed to seek the truth in each case.

Edmiston will remain on home detention, with electronic monitoring, until he reports to prison no later than September 10, 2007.

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